

Ripped
from the
ROUNDUP

Ripped straight from the pages of old Space News Roundups, here's what happened at JSC on this date:

1965

At 9:24 a.m. EST, March 23, America's second series of human space flights got off to a successful start with the launching of Astronauts Virgil I. (Gus) Grissom and John W. Young on a three-orbit flight of the Earth in their two-person Gemini spacecraft.

This first Gemini flight, launched from Cape Kennedy, was designed to validate the human-machine relationship and make the Gemini program fully operational.

During the four-hour and 53-minute flight, all the major flight objectives were met. The Gemini-3 pilots maneuvered their spacecraft and changed their orbital plane around the Earth, an achievement that had never before been accomplished by a manned vehicle in space.

1990

The Pegasus air-launched space booster successfully completed its initial launch April 5, marking the first time a privately developed launch vehicle has carried a payload into orbit.


Former Astronaut C. Gordon Fullerton commanded the NASA B-52 that carried the unusual 49-foot-long, 41,000-pound triangular-winged rocket to its launch point 60 miles southwest of Monterey, Calif., over the Pacific Ocean. After release at 43,000 feet, Pegasus followed an autonomously guided, lift-assisted trajectory into a 320 nautical mile polar orbit.

1995

NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has helped solve a two-decade-old cosmic mystery by showing that mysterious clouds of hydrogen in space may actually be vast halos of gas surrounding galaxies.

"This conclusion runs contrary to the long-standing belief that these clouds occur in intergalactic space," says Ken Lanzetta of the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

The existence of such vast halos, which extend 20 times farther than the diameter of a galaxy, might provide new insights into the evolution of galaxies and the nature of dark matter.



JSC and center director star at VPPPA Conference

By Mary Peterson

Scarcely one year ago, JSC was a mere wannabe on the VPP Star scene. Who could have foreseen the rousing, standing ovation Center Director George Abbey would receive for his keynote address at the VPP Participant's Association Conference in March in Albuquerque, NM, where he described JSC's (sometimes bumpy) road to the coveted Star status. JSC, for all its trials and vast employee population, unique among VPP sites, had, indeed, arrived.

Clearly mesmerized by the achievements of the space program, the audience of some 1,000 delegates listened raptly as Abbey recounted the amazing exploits of the past and gave them a peek into what the future will bring. Yet, for all the glamour and adventure that marked the early parts of his talk, the director's demeanor changed visibly when he

broached the subject of safety, something near to his heart. Not just safety for the shuttle flights and the astronauts, but safety for everyone connected with the space program, and their families.

"Our program is about people," Abbey said. "I showed you a lot of pictures of facilities and a lot of airplanes and buildings, and all those kinds of things, but it is the people that really make the difference. Our very success depends on the well-being of our workforce." Abbey recalled how the safety program, although well founded for the shuttle missions and astronauts, had been somewhat neglected in terms of the larger JSC population. Until, that is, on the fateful day in April of 1994 when the center fell victim to an accidental release of orange vapor, later identified as nitrogen tetroxide. From that date forward, every activity was geared to safety excellence, and, ultimately, achieving VPP Star status.

"Now," said Abbey, "we need to extend our safety program from the workplace: to-and-from work, and home. We've come a long way, but we have a long way yet to go. We are proud to be a part of VPP because we think it is a very fine program. We hope to achieve 'superstar' status someday, and we are going to work very hard to do that," he promised.

JSC was also honored with a 'Star Among Stars' award for having injury rates 50 percent below that of the Bureau of Labor Statistics average. JSC narrowly missed (by only 4 percentage points) achieving the "Superstar Among Stars" rank. This designates a 75 percent better record than the BLS average.

The nearly 100 JSC Team delegates at the conference learned much about maintaining Star certification and how to expand the safety program, information that will be shared with the center-at-large in the coming weeks and months. ■

Keep those Roundups!

Are you one of those loyal space enthusiasts that has a secret stash of old *Roundups*? You're not alone. Lots of people, both former and current JSC employees, maintain a collection of the 39-year-old publication as personal memorabilia. Added bonus? In addition to their value as a historic keepsake, the documents are now a recognized collector's item in the marketplace. One of our readers recently spotted a collection of the NASA publication for sale on the popular online auction site, eBay. An anonymous seller relinquished their accumulation of the newsletter, 543 issues dating from 1972 to 1999, to a bidder for \$150. ■

GILRUTH CENTER NEWS

Sign up policy:

All classes and athletic activities are on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign up in person at the Gilruth Center and show a yellow Gilruth or weight room badge. Classes tend to fill up two weeks in advance. Payment must be made in full, cash or by check, at the time of registration. No registration will be taken by telephone. For more information, call x33345.

Gilruth badges:

Required for use of the Gilruth Center. Employees, spouses, eligible dependents, NASA retirees and spouses may apply for photo identification badges from 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays. Cost is \$10. Dependents must be between 16 and 23 years old.

Open from 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 6:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Contact the Gilruth Center at (281) 483-3345. <http://www4.jsc.nasa.gov/ah/exceaa/Gilruth/Gilruth.htm>

Nutrition intervention program:

Six-week program includes lectures, a private consultation with the dietitian and blood analysis to chart your progress. Program is open to all employees, contractors and spouses. For details call Tammie Shaw at x32980.

Defensive driving:

One-day course is offered once a month at the Gilruth Center. Pre-registration required. Cost is \$25. Call for next available class.

Stamp club:

Meets every second and fourth Monday at 7 p.m. in Rm. 216.

Weight safety:

Required course for employees wishing to use the Gilruth weight room. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$5. Annual weight room use fee is \$90. The cost for additional family members is \$50.

Exercise:

Low-impact class meets from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Cost is \$24 for eight weeks.

Step/bench aerobics:

Low-impact cardiovascular workout. Classes meet from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cost is \$32 for eight weeks. Kristen Taraszewski, instructor.

Yoga:

Stretching class of low-impact exercises designed for people of all ages and abilities in a Westernized format. Meets Thursdays 5-6 p.m. Cost is \$32 for eight weeks. Call Darrell Matula, instructor, at x38520 for more information.

Ballroom dancing:

Classes meet Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for beginner, 8:30-9:30 p.m. for intermediate and 7:30-8:30 p.m. for advanced. Cost is \$60 per couple.

Country and western dancing:

Beginner class meets 7-8:30 p.m. Monday. Advanced class (must know basic steps to all dances) meets 8:30-10 p.m. Monday. Cost is \$20 per couple.

Fitness program:

Health-related fitness program includes a medical screening examination and a 12-week individually prescribed exercise program. For details call Larry Wier at x30301.

Aikido:

Martial arts class for men and women meets 5-6 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. No special equipment or knowledge is needed to participate. Aikido teaches balance and control to defend against an opponent without using strength or force. Beginning and advanced classes start each month. Cost is \$35 per month.

TICKET WINDOW

The following discount tickets are available at the Exchange Stores

General Cinema Theaters	.....	\$5.50	
Sony Loew's Theaters	.....	\$5.50	
AMC Theaters	.....	\$5.00	
Fiesta Texasadult ..	\$20.50. ....child (under 48 inches) ..	\$17.25	
Astroworld Early Bird (use by June 18)	.....	\$17.25	
Astroworld1 day ..	\$21.002 day ..	\$31.00
WaterWorld	.....	\$12.00	
Moody Gardens (2 events) (does not include Aquarium Pyramid)	.....	\$10.75	
Moody Gardens (Aquarium only)	.....	\$9.25	
Sea Worldadult ..	\$29.00child (3-11 years) ..	\$19.25
Space Center Houstonadult ..	\$11.00child (age 4-11) ..	\$7.25
(JSC civil service employees free.)				
Space Center Houston annual pass	.....	\$18.75	
Splash Town1 day ..	\$13.00Season Pass ..	\$37.50
Postage Stamps (book of 20)	.....	\$6.60	

Exchange Store hours

Monday-Friday

Bldg. 3	7 a.m.-4 p.m.
Bldg. 11	9 a.m.-3 p.m.

➤ All tickets are nonrefundable.

➤ Metro tokens and value cards are available.

➤ Booksigning with Mario Livio author of *The Accelerating Universe* Tuesday, April 25, Building 3 Cafeteria, 9 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

For additional information, please call x35350.

Please bring your driver's license to pay by personal check.